

REMARKS

The present application was in condition for allowance, wherein Applicants paid the Issue Fee on February 1, 2007. However, a Petition to Withdraw from Issue, a Request for Continued Examination and an Information Disclosure Statement were filed on May 22, 2007, thereby reopening prosecution.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the foregoing preliminary amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

In the present Preliminary Amendment, claims 12-16 have been added. This makes claims 1-16 as pending in the present application, wherein claims 1 and 16 are independent.

No new matter has been added with the amendment and new claims. The new claims are fully supported by the original disclosure, e.g., paragraphs [00118] and [00107] (see, e.g., page 24, lines 15-16) of the specification. Support for new claim 15 is found in claim 1, as well as, for example, paragraph [00107] of the present specification. Further, new claim 12 has support in the specification in paragraph [00137]; claim 13 has support in the specification in paragraphs [0025]-[0028], [0043], [00117], [00132], [00134] and [00135] of the specification; and claims 14-15 has support in the specification at least in paragraphs [0019], [0030] and [00118].

Entry of the present amendments is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement Filed

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to the Information Disclosure Statements

filed on (1) May 4, 2007, (2) May 22, 2007, as well as (3) the IDS being concurrently filed with this preliminary amendment. Thus, there are three IDSs to consider.

Conclusion

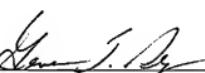
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

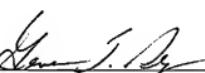
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: JUL 18 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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By  ⁴⁸⁵⁰¹
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